REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-14 are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter of the disclosed invention. Additionally, new claims 15-17 are added to more fully recite the claimed invention. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment, as new claims 15-17 are fully supported by the unamended claims and specification.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the top of the first page, just under the title, insert

--This application is the National Phase of International Application PCT/FI99/00868 filed October 19, 1999 which designated the U.S. and that International Application was Published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (Amended) A digital telecommunication system [wherein terminals and a telecommunication network comprise speech codecs, the] comprising:

a first centre configured to enable speech communication between a plurality of terminals, the first centre being associated with a calling terminal and including a first transcoder unit;

a second centre that is configured to enable speech communication between a plurality of terminals, the second centre being associated with a called terminal and including a second transcoder unit,

wherein the first and second transcoder units each include speech codecs [of the telecommunication network being disposed in a transcoder unit, from which a centre in the telecommunication network connects a transcoder for a speech connection, when required, **characterized** in that]

, the first centre [of the calling terminal] is [arranged] configured to perform handshaking with the second centre [of the called terminal], [said] the handshaking including [notification] indication of the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal, wherein at least one of the

first and second centres is configured to choose the speech codec used by the calling and called terminals, and wherein at least one of the first and second centres is [are arranged] configured to establish call connections [past] that bypass one or more of the transcoder [unit] units or to control the transcoder units to [let] transmit [the] encoded speech [through] between the called and calling terminals without performing speech encoding operations so that speech is encoded and decoded only in the terminals.

2. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 1, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein [said] the telecommunication system is a mobile communication system in which [said] the terminals [comprise] include mobile stations, [said] and the telecommunication system further [telecommunication network] comprises a mobile communication network and [said] at least one of the first and second centres is [centre of the telecommunication network comprises] a mobile switching centre.

3. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 2, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

the mobile switching centre [comprises] includes a subscriber database [for maintaining] configured to maintain subscriber data [on] associated with a mobile subscriber [when the mobile station is located within the area of the mobile switching centre], and [said] the subscriber data [comprises] includes information [on] indicating the speech codecs supported by a mobile station associated with the mobile subscriber [subscriber's mobile station].

4. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in any one] of [claims] claim 1 [to 3], [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein [said] the handshaking is [carried out] performed as outband signalling.

5. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 4, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein the first and second [mobile switching] centres are [arranged] configured to [carry out said] perform the handshaking in association with a routing information inquiry issued in response to a determination that the called terminal is [subscriber being] a mobile subscriber.

6. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 5, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

the first [mobile switching] centre [of the calling subscriber] is [arranged] configured to send [a] the routing information inquiry [comprising] including information [on] associated with the speech codecs supported by the [mobile station] calling terminal,

the second [mobile switching] centre [of the called subscriber] is [arranged] configured to select [for the call connection] a speech codec to be associated with the call connection which the calling and called terminals [mobile stations of both the called and calling subscribers] are configured to support, and

the second [mobile switching] centre [of the called subscriber] is [arranged] configured to send information [on said] associated with the speech codec [, selected for] associated with the call connection [,] in a reply message to the routing information inquiry.

7. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 6, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein

[said] the routing information inquiry and reply message to the routing information inquiry are [arranged] configured to pass via [the] a home database of the called [subscriber] terminal.

8. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 4, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein the [mobile switching] first and second centres are [arranged] configured to [carry out said] perform the handshaking in association with inter-MSC signalling[, such as ISUP signalling].

9. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 8, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

the [mobile switching] first centre [of the calling subscriber] is [arranged] configured to send a message requesting connection set-up[, such as an IAM message according to ISUP signalling], the message [containing] including information [on] indicating the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal[mobile station],

the [mobile switching] second centre [of the called subscriber] is [arranged] configured to select [for the call connection] a speech codec associated with the call connection which both the called and calling terminals [the mobile stations of both the called and calling subscribers] are configured to support, and

the [mobile switching] second centre [of the called subscriber] is [arranged] configured to send information [on said] associated with the codec [, selected for] associated with the call connection, in a reply message to the connection set-up message[, such as in an ANM message according to ISUP signalling].

10. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in any one] of [the preceding claims] claim 1, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein, when required, at least one of the [mobile switching] first and second centres is [arranged] configured to notify the [mobile station] associated terminal of the speech codec it has to use as the result of [said] the

handshaking.

11. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in] of claim 10, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein

at least one of the first and second [mobile switching centre] centres is [arranged] configured to notify [the mobile station] the associated terminal of the speech codec to be used if it is not [the] a default speech codec of the [mobile station] associated terminal.

12. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in any one] of [the preceding claims] claim 1, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

a pulse code modulated [(PCM)] digital link exists between the first and second [mobile switching] centres, and

the first and second [mobile switching] centres are [arranged] configured to control [the] their respective transcoder units [at the ends of said link] to adapt [the] an encoded speech signal to one or more least significant bits of PCM samples without transcoding.

13. (Amended) [A] The telecommunication system [as claimed in any one] of [claims] claim 1 [to 11], [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

the system is configured to support a packet-switched link [exists] between the first and second [mobile switching] centres[, such as a network based on the ATM or IP technology], and

the first and second [mobile switching] centres are [arranged] configured to connect a call connection [past] that bypasses at least one of the transcoder [unit] units.

14. (Amended) A centre in a digital telecommunication network [, the centre being

arranged] configured to connect a transcoder located in a transcoder unit to a call connection when required, [**c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that] wherein:

[said] the centre is [arranged] configured to perform handshaking with [the] another centre associated with [of] a called terminal, [said] the handshaking including indication [notification] of [the] speech codecs supported by the calling terminal associated with the centre, the centre also being configured to choose the speech codec used by the terminals, and

[said] the centre is [arranged] configured to connect a call connection [past] that bypasses the transcoder unit or to control the transcoder unit to [let] transmit the encoded speech [through] without performing speech encoding operations in such a way that speech encoding and decoding are only [carried out] performed in the calling or called terminal.